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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/702,841	11/01/2000	Nickolai Alexandrov	2750-1330P	1956

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EXAMINER

ZHOU, SHUBO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1631

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2003

4 19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/702,841

Applicant(s)

ALEXANDROV ET AL.

Examiner

Shubo "Joe" Zhou

Art Unit

1631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The art unit designated for this application has changed. Applicant(s) are hereby informed that future correspondence should be directed to Art Unit 1631.

Sequence Rules Compliance

This application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 CFR 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2).

A table on the CDR has been incorporated by reference (specification page 1, lines 5-10) per 37 C.F.R. 1.52 and 1.58. The CDR contains a table, which contains recitation of sequences embedded in the table. However, this application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825 because paper copy and computer readable form of a Sequence Listing in compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825 are not provided. Applicants are given the same response time regarding this failure to comply as that set forth to respond to this office action. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in ABANDONMENT of the application under 37 CFR 1.821(g). Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Restriction/Election Requirement

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-10, drawn to polynucleotides, expression vector, and host cells containing same, classified in Class 536, subclass 23.1 and 24.1; Class 435, subclasses 320.1, and 325 and 419. If this group is elected, then the below sequence election requirement also is required.
- II. Claim 11, drawn to polypeptide, classified in Class 530, subclasses 300 and 350. If this group is elected, then the below sequence election requirement also is required.
- III. Claim 12, drawn to an antibody, classified in Class 530, subclass 387.1. If this group is elected, then the below sequence election requirement also is required.
- IV. Claims 13-14, drawn to methods of introducing an isolated DNA into host cells and transforming host cells, classified in Class 435, subclass 419. If this group is elected, then the below sequence election requirement also is required.
- V. Claim 15, drawn to a method of modulating transcription and/or translation of a nucleic acid in a host cell, classified in Class 435, subclass 455. If this group is elected, then the below sequence election requirement also is required.
- VI. Claim 16, drawn to methods of detecting a nucleic acid, classified in Class 435, subclass 6. If this group is elected, then the below sequence election requirement also is required.
- VII. Claims 17-20, drawn to transgenic plants and/or plant cells, classified in Class 800, subclass 3. If this group is elected, then the below sequence election requirement also is required.

Sequence Election Requirement Applicable to All Groups

In addition, each Group detailed above reads on patentably distinct sequences. Each sequence is patentably distinct because they are unrelated sequences, and a further restriction is applied to each Group. For an elected Group drawn to amino acid sequences, the Applicants must further elect a single amino acid sequence. For an elected Group drawn to nucleotide

sequences, the Applicants must elect a single nucleic acid sequence (See MPEP 803.04). It is noted that the multitude of sequence submissions for examination has resulted in an undue search burden if more than one nucleic acid sequence is elected, thus making the previous waiver for up to 10 elected nucleic acid sequences effectively impossible to reasonably implement.

MPEP 803.04 states:

Nucleotide sequences encoding different proteins are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute independent and distinct inventions with the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide sequence is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141 et seq.

Examination will be restricted to only the elected sequence.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The inventions of Groups (I, IV-VI), Group II, Group III, and Group VII are independent distinct inventions because they are directed to different chemical types or other subject matter regarding the critical limitations therein. For Groups (I, IV-VI), the critical feature is nucleic acids; for Group II, the critical feature is a polypeptide; for Group III, the critical feature is an antibody; and for Group VII, the critical feature is a plant or plant cell. It is acknowledged that various processing steps may cause a polypeptide of Group II to be directed as to its synthesis by a polynucleotide of Groups (I, IV-VI), however, the completely separate chemical types of the inventions of the nucleic acid, polypeptide, and antibody Groups supports the undue search burden if they were examined together. Additionally, polynucleotides, polypeptides, antibodies and transgenic plants have been most commonly, albeit not always, separately characterized and published in the biochemical literature, thus significantly adding to the search burden if examined together as compared to being searched separately. Also, it is pointed out that

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processing that may connect two Groups does not prevent them from being viewed as distinct because enough processing can result in producing any composition from any other composition if the processing is not limited as to additions, subtractions, enzyme action, etc. Thus, the four Groupings of (I, IV-VI), Group II, Group III, and Group VII are independent and/or distinct invention types for restriction purposes.

The inventions of Groups I, IV, V and VI are related as product and distinct processes of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (M.P.E.P. § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the nucleic acids of Group I can be used in the distinct processes of the inventions of Groups IV-VI. One use is directed to transforming a host cell (Group IV), another to detection via nucleic acid binding reactions (Group VI). Alternatively, the nucleic acids of Group I can be used in antisense technologies, which is also a clearly distinct usage of such nucleic acids.

Because these inventions are independent/distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art and thus are usually published separately in the literature because of their recognized divergent subject matter, there would be undue search burden if they were examined together. Therefore, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR § 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

Applicant is further reminded that a fully responsive communication will comprise a proper election of a group, and sequence as well as compliance with the sequence rules as set forth above. Examination cannot proceed without a complete response.


Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The CM1 Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242 or (703) 305-3014.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to:


Shubo "Joe" Zhou, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 605-1158. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

S. "Joe" Zhou, Ph.D. 

Patent Examiner


MICHAEL P. WOODWARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600